

# The Nation

## Pillsbury Gets His Walking Papers

After the appearance earlier in the year of news stories about secret Administration plans to provide sophisticated heat-seeking Stinger missiles to anti-Communist insurgents in Afghanistan and Angola, the Government launched a search for loose lips — a hardly uncommon and rarely successful enterprise. But last week officials disclosed that a source of the Stinger story had been Michael E. Pillsbury, a senior Pentagon aide, and said that he had been dismissed.

Part of the evidence against him, officials said, was his flunking a lie-detector test. As an assistant to Fred C. Iklé, the Under Secretary for Policy, Mr. Pillsbury was said to have had access to detailed information about covert paramilitary operations. Federal prosecutors recently came down hard on another accused leaker: Samuel Loring Morison, who was convicted of espionage charges and sentenced in December to two years in prison. Mr. Morison, who is appealing his conviction, was accused of providing classified satellite photographs to a British magazine, *Jane's Defense Weekly*.

It was not Mr. Pillsbury's first encounter with a pink slip. In 1981, when he was acting director of the Government's arms control agency, he was dismissed after a newspaper column quoted an unclassified letter from him to Senator Jesse Helms, the North Carolina Republican, saying he could not assure that conformance with nuclear arms treaties was verifiable. In 1978, he was fired from the Senate Budget Committee after he was reported to have criticized Mike Mansfield, the United States' Ambassador in Tokyo, in conversations with Japanese dignitaries.